



DATE: December 11, 2020

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SUBJECT: Friday Update

A bunch of items for this week:

City Council Agenda for December 14, 2020:

- Mayoral Appointments- These include assignments for City Council Members to both City and regional boards and commissions.
- Pension Obligation Bond Authorization which includes a resolution authorizing the structuring, a sample debt note and the refinancing of bonds to fund pension fund liabilities.
- Public Hearing on an amendment to the City's Municipal Code to allow fee schedules and processing for development projects to be included in the City's fee schedule. This is part of a development streamlining process for the City.
- Job description update for Reserve Police Officer.
- A \$3,000 funding request from the Economic Development Committee to support online business support for local businesses.
- Investment Report for the First Quarter of the Fiscal Year ending in September.
- City Clerk Services agreement with the City of Colfax for Auburn City Clerk Amy Lind to assist Colfax for meetings.

Other items in the works:

- The City is releasing "Requests for Proposals" for building, engineering and planning firms to be placed on a "qualified contractors list" to supplement City Staff in the management and services related to these fields. This is being

done to comply with the City's "procurement policies" and will enable the City to be more responsive in providing needed services, especially for those wishing to do development activity in the City. City Clerk Amy Lind is managing this project.

- Both of the Police and Fire Chiefs have expanded their supervision over the past number of months to include areas of public works, engineering, planning, airport, building and transit. Our staff in these areas have been working hard, so part of my direction to the Chiefs at this point is to work with the staff to identify additional resource needs to supplement workload in key areas. They will be working with Staff to get this done which will generate recommendations and eventual action. Good stuff!!
- Covid has generated a need many things including modifications to how building and architectural review guidelines of the City are met. An upcoming workshop to include the City Council, Planning Commission, Historic Design Review Commission and SHACC will focus on guidance on things like temporary design elements so permitting can be expedited and done over the counter. Look for this directly after the holidays.
- A staff task force is being generated to work on the modernization of key technology areas of the City. Specifically, it will include moving things like budgeting, human resources, payroll, building permits, capital project management and other areas into "cloud" based systems. We have some amazing internal leadership amongst the City Staff and in this area, I have appointed Samantha Davis from Auburn PD and Fire Battalion Chief John Rodgers to co-chair the committee to insure internal consistency and continuity in the integration of the systems City-wide.
- Follow "Think Auburn First" on Facebook and catch the episodes of "Shop Auburn Live", hosted by our very own Daniel Berlant, Chamber Executive Jackie Weston and their third wheel/trusted side kick, yours truly! We visit local business, you meet the proprietors and we walk you around the store. Thus far we are garnering thousands of views in what are silly and fun episodes. Check out all 6 episodes with a caution that Episode 5 got a little "R" rated!

Finally couple items which are really important to the City and our organization.

First, the reorganization of a City Council is an important time for a City. On December 7, 2020 we saw the confirmation of Alice Dowdin Calvillo and Rachel Radell Harris being elected as City Council Members. We also experienced the departure of Cheryl Maki from her third, non-consecutive, four year term. Alice and Rachel will bring newly elected energy to the City Council with ideas and positions learned from their activity in the election and within the Auburn Community. New perspectives and energy to a City Council is valuable and important!

With Cheryl Maki stepping off the City Council, we see the departure of experience and wisdom. Being an elected councilmember in a small community is not an easy task and Cheryl has the metal and has been a very effective person on



the Council. As the City Manager, I can tell you that Cheryl served an even more effective role in representing her constituents and that has been her role within the region!

Regionally, Cheryl representing the City on Pioneer Energy and the Placer County Transportation Agency, no small tasks and probably more intensive than her role on the City Council. I always tell Councilmembers the MOST IMPORTANT and sometimes the most thankless part of their service is within the region and at meetings which provide them practically zero brownie points back home in the City. Cheryl also sat on the most powerful body in the Sacramento Region, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board which is a really big deal. This is no small task and a credit to both Cheryl and Auburn. Regional leadership brings a lot of clout to the community, and as a CHAIR, it puts you at the head of the table in influencing key policy. Whether people realize it, Cheryl made Auburn a “big deal” within the Sacramento Region!

Our “new mayor”, Matt Spokely and I were talking the other night about the importance of City Council seeking leadership on the regional boards for which they will be appointed. We have an exceptional group on the City Council who can and will represent Auburn throughout the region. An exciting time!

Cheryl is a self-made person, a solid business person, locally active and very generous in helping advance locally beneficial causes. My guess is that she is going to stay active to benefit the town. Her sage experience on the Council is replaced with the important “new energy” and Auburn will keep moving forward.

I will share that in my career, the transition on Monday night was my 19th in local government. In representative government going back to greek times, the locally elected leadership is the most important because they represent the most important needs of the populous, providing the homes, economy and services which make everyday life. In the small town, these elected are your neighbors and friends, making sometime difficult, responsible and complex decisions which makes them a little less popular with some. The City Councilmember is literally the root of democracy, leading the business which provides the place people call their home. Lots of challenges but also the satisfaction of making a difference toward the betterment of where they live.

Have a nice weekend.

John



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